

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 02902 271125Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /085 W

-----003656 271132Z /15

P 271105Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8870

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2902

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, CG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER DELIVERED TO MOBUTU

REF: A) STATE 72015; B) KINSHASA 2878

1. I DELIVERED PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU MARCH 25. DURING MEETING I TOOK OCCASION TO underscore IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO GOZ'S NEGOTIATING EXPEDITIOUSLY NEW IMF STABILIZATION PROGRAM AND BRINGING IN FOREIGN EXPERTS AT CENTRAL BANK. I SAID I HAD RECENTLY MET WITH FINANCE MINISTER AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR (REF B) AND WAS ENCOURAGED TO LEARN THAT CONTACTS WITH THE IMF ON BOTH THESE ISSUES SEEMED IMMINENT. I ALSO STRESSED OUR CONTINUING CONCERN FOR RECOVERY OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE RECENT MEETING IN KINSHASA OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP'S SUB-COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE WOULD HELP MAINTAIN MOMENTUM IN THAT DIRECTION. MOBUTU ACKNOWLEDGED MY POINTS BUT--IN CONTRAST TO MY LAST MEETING WITH HIM IN ABIDJAN--HE WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT IN A MOOD TO SPEND MUCH TIME DISCUSSING ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. HIS REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER WAS LIMITED TO AN EXPRESSION OF GENERAL SATISFACTION, AND HE THEN TURNED TO OTHER PREOCCUPATIONS (REPORTED SEPTELS).

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2. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD SEEN MOBUTU SINCE MY RETURN FROM WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS AND THE SUBSEQUENT COUP PLOT TRIAL HERE. MOBUTU SEEMED IN REASONABLY GOOD SPIRITS AND INTERSPERSED OUR FORTY-MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH THE OCCASIONAL LIGHT-HEARTED CRACKS THAT USUALLY MARK OUR MEETINGS. HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE TRIAL OR TO OUR DEMARCHE BEFORE THE

EXECUTIONS, NOR DID I. ON THE OTHER HAND, MOBUTU LOOKED TIRED AND SEEMED RATHER ON EDGE. (AN AMERICAN WHO CALLED ON MOBUTU THE FOLLOWING DAY REMARKED THAT HE APPEARED UNUSUALLY NERVOUS.) THE FACT THAT OUR MEETING WAS FULLY COVERED BY RADIO AND TELEVISION, INCLUDING AN INTERVIEW UPON MY LEAVING THE PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE, INDICATES THAT MOBUTU PERCEIVED A POLITICAL INTEREST IN PUBLICIZING US-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS AT THIS TIME. SIMILAR COVERAGE HAD BEEN ACCORDED THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR WHEN HE DELIVERED GISCARD'S RESPONSE RE THE MOBUTU PLAN. EARLIER IN THE WEEK. THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR LEFT ZAIRE RATHER ABRUPTLY ON MARCH 22 FOR "MEDICAL TREATMENT AND A REST" IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE DID NOT MEET WITH MOBUTU BEFORE HE DEPARTED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC STABILITY, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 mar 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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